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Highlands Council Joins Farm Bureau on Tour of Highlands Agriculture

Chester, NJ- Members of the New Jersey Highlands Council visited six Highlands farms Monday on a tour organized by the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

“The tour organized by the Farm Bureau was extremely informative, and served to highlight the diversity of farming in the Highlands and the scope of issues farmers face as they continue to be an integral part of the Highlands’ economic and cultural landscape,” said Highlands Council Chairman John Weingart.

Chairman Weingart was joined by Council Members Mimi Letts, Janice Kovach, Glen Vetrano and Lois Cuccinello as well as Executive Director Adam Zellner and several staff members of the Highlands Council.

New Jersey Farm Bureau President Rich Nieuwenhuis said, “The tour is a traditional method for state policy makers to see agriculture up close and on their own terms. It also allows the farmer to speak directly to those issues that impact on the continuation and future viability of farming, and who better is there to do that than those who are in the business of agriculture.”

The tour, which highlighted the variety of agricultural practices in the Highlands, visited Stony Hill Gardens, Ashley’s Turkey Farm, and Thomas’ Tree Farm in Morris County; Stonegate Farms in Hunterdon County; and Schnetzer’s Dairy Farm and Donaldson’s Farm in Warren County.

“We very much appreciate the generous time provided by the Farm Bureau and its staff and by the farmers with whom we met. Each of the farmers gave us constructive opinions and suggestions that were clearly based on hard-earned experience,” said Chairman Weingart. “We hope what we learned yesterday will help the Council continue to work to be part of the solution for ensuring long-term, continued, economically viable farming in the Highlands.”

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